

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARTIN 04014 092355Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2990
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MARTINIQUE 4014
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ELAB, MB
SUBJ: STRIKE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

REF: A. MARTINIQUE 374 B. MARTINIQUE A-11

1. SPOKESMAN FOR THE CARTEL DES FONCTIONNAIRES (AN ORGANIZATION OF ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THEY PLANNED TO CONDUCT A ONE-DAY WORK STOPPAGE JUNE 13TH, IN PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT METROPOLITAN FRENCH EMPLOYEES HERE WOULD RECEIVE FULLY PAID ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION MARTINIQUE/FRANCE DURING VACATION WHILE FRENCH MARTINIQUEANS WOULD RECEIVE ONLY ONE-HALF TRANSPORTATION COST TO AND FROM FRANCE DURING THEIR VACATION. THE CARTEL DES FONCTIONNAIRES' SPOKESMAN SAID FONCTIONNAIRES WERE DEMANDING FROM GOF 1) EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL EMPLOYEES, 2) PAY TOTAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS, 3) PERMISSION TO ACCUMULATE LEAVE AND TO USE IT TO TRAVEL TO PLACES OTHER THAN FRANCE (CURRENTLY FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS EMPLOYEES TRAVELLING AT GOF EXPENSE TO TRAVEL IN FRANCE), 4) THAT ALL SOCIAL BENEFITS AFFECTING EMPLOYEES HERE EQUAL THOSE RECEIVED IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE AND 5) THAT IT SET ASIDE MAY 22 AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY IN MEMORY OF THE ABOLITION OF
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SLAVERY.

COMMENT: AS PREDICTED IN REF A GOF EMPLOYEES IN MARTINIQUE, GUADALOUPE AND FRENCH GUIANA WOULD BE INCENSED IF CUT IN BENEFITS WERE ATTEMPTED. HOWEVER UNFORTUNATE IT MAY BE GOF HAS CHOSEN A COURSE WHICH, DESIGNED PERHAPS TO EASE THE ECONOMIC BLOW, HAS CAUSED A

DIVISION BETWEEN THE LOCALLY EMPLOYED AND THE METROPOLITAN
EMPLOYED WORKER. THIS DISCREPANCY HAS OPENED PANDORA'S BOX.
THE ISSUE OF TRANSPORTATION COST IS MERELY ONE OF SEVERAL
IRRITANTS AS IS INDICATED BY THEIR LIST OF DEMANDS. FORTUNATELY,
AT THIS POINT IN TIME THE LEFTISTS HAVE NOT YET INJECTED
THEMSELVES INTO THIS ISSUE. BUT GIVEN THE ISSUE'S SENSITIVE NATURE
ONE CAN EXPECT THE POLITICAL ACTIVISTS TO MAKE FULL
USE OF IT. POST WILL FOLLOW THESE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.
ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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